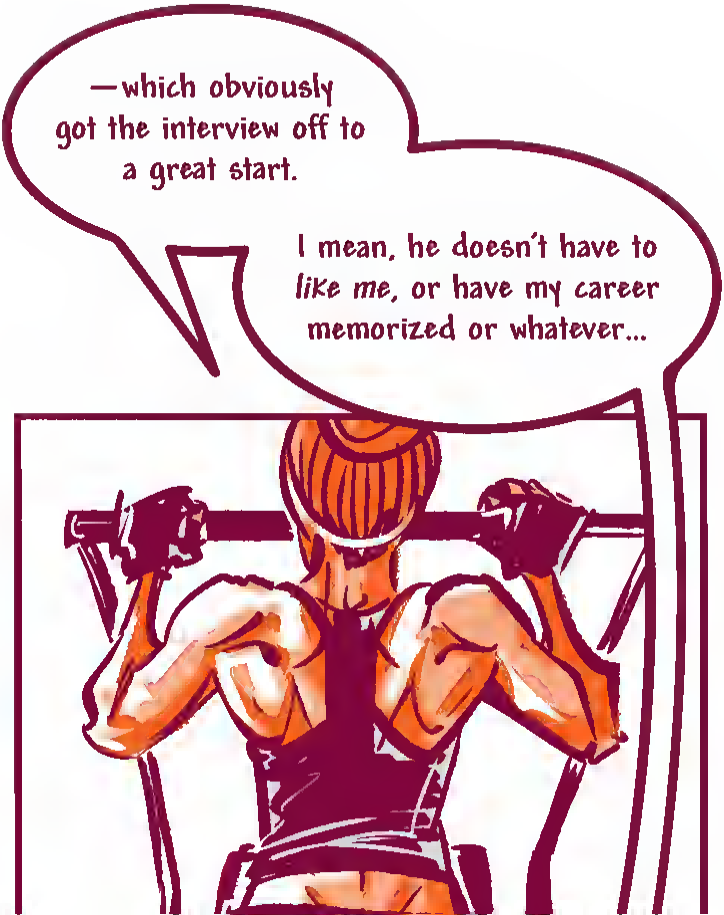
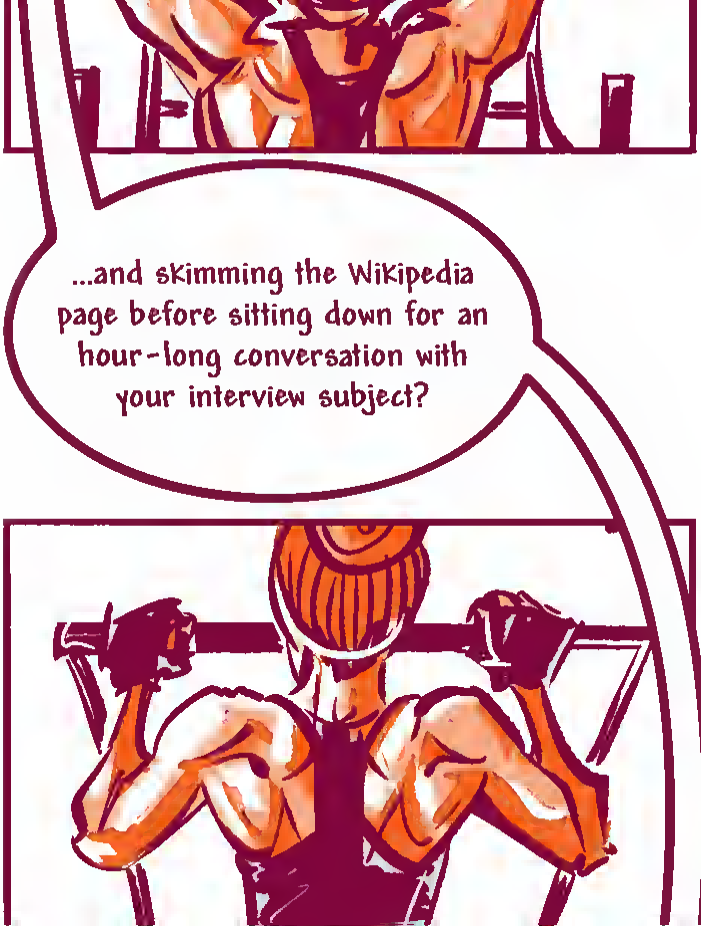
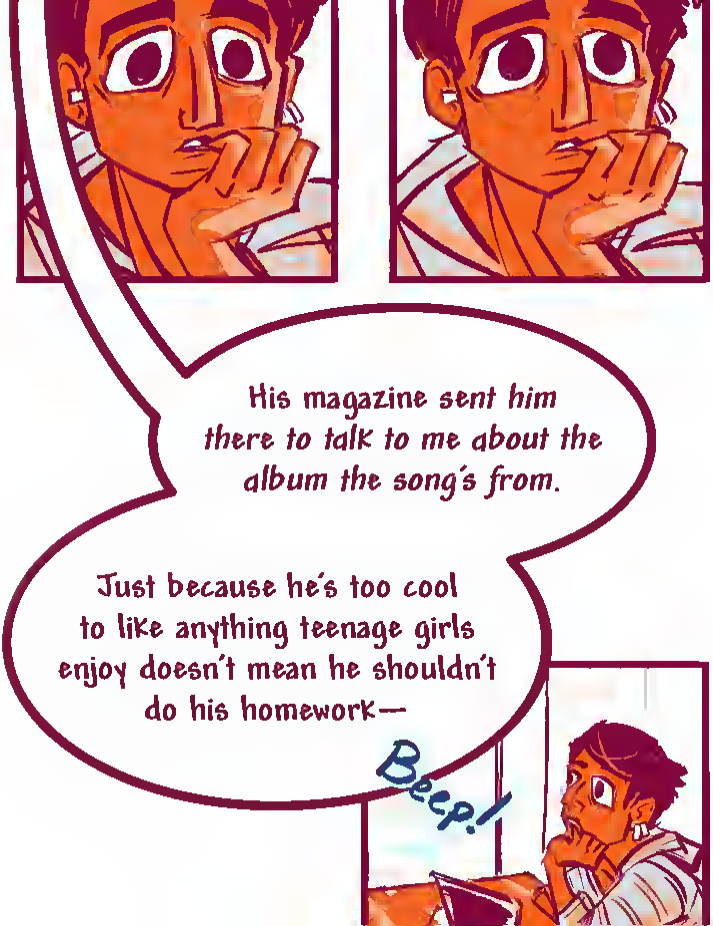

—which obviously got the interview off to a great start.
I mean, he doesn't have to *like me*, or have my career memorized or whatever...

...but isn't there supposed to be a level of journalistic pride in at least doing, like, a *cursory Google search*...


...and skimming the Wikipedia page before sitting down for an hour-long conversation with your interview subject?

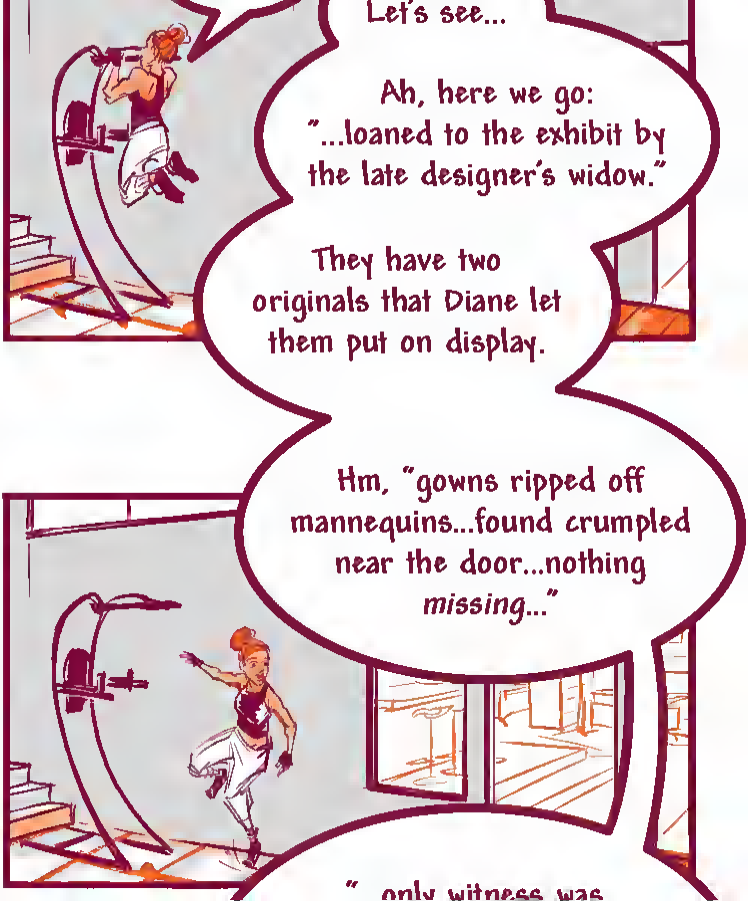
And then he did this weird laugh like I was being *arrogant* for assuming he'd seen the music video?

It's not like I grabbed him randomly off the street for a Carina Trivia pop quiz.

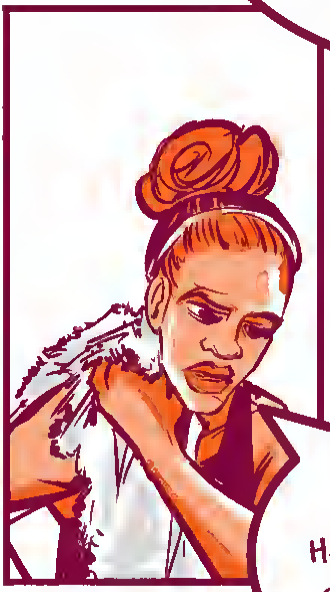

His magazine sent him there to talk to me about the album the song's from.
Just because he's too cool to like anything teenage girls enjoy doesn't mean he shouldn't do his homework—
Beep!

Is that Javier? He said he'd be getting tour proposals in from the stage designers sometime today.

No, it's my Marco Gallo Google alert.
LA Museum of Fashion's exhibit "Hollywood Style After the Golden Age" was vandalized last night.
And?


Let's see...
Ah, here we go: "...loaned to the exhibit by the late designer's widow."
They have two originals that Diane let them put on display.
Hm, "gowns ripped off mannequins...found crumpled near the door...nothing *missing*..."
"...only witness was

...only witness was Manuel Reyes, a security guard who responded to the alarm and saw the vandal fleeing on foot."



Vandal, my ass. That was our thief. He must have panicked and dropped the clothes when the guard showed up.

This is our first real lead. I want to get a look at that crime scene.
I don't think I have any contacts at the museum, though.

...Actually, I might.

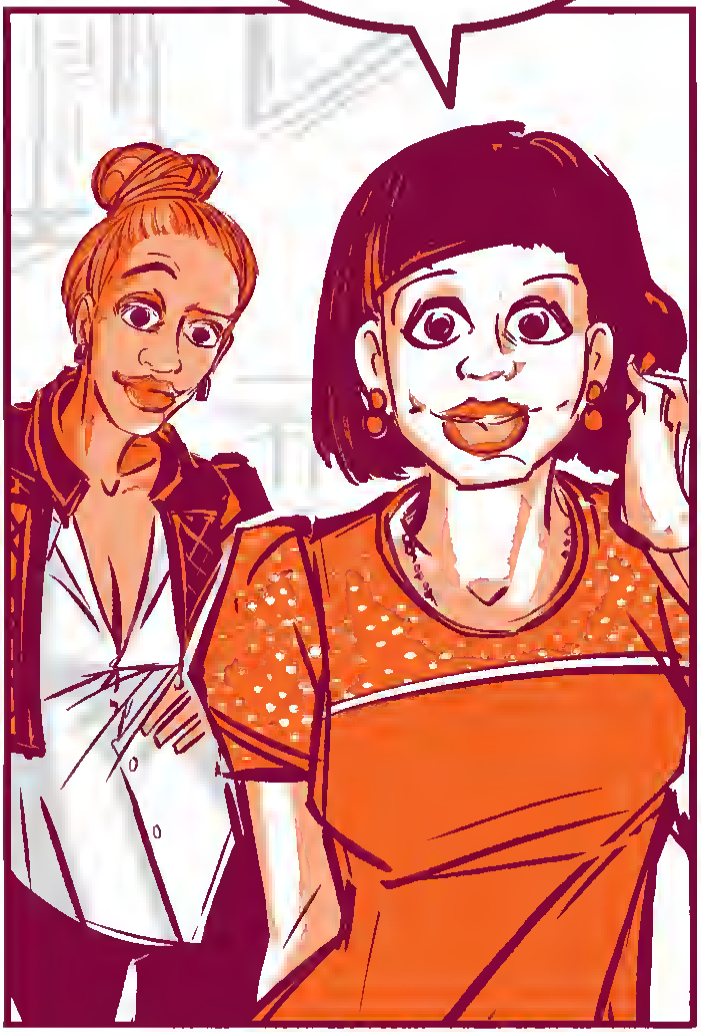
Go shower, I'll make some calls. We might be able to swing by for a look before your thing at five.

POWER BALLAD

CHAPTER SEVEN

Meera! It's so good to see you.
Uh. You too, Emmy.
I'm so glad you called. It's been too long—I've

been meaning to get back in touch.



Ha!
Yeah, totally.

And hey, congrats on the promotion— Assistant Curator of...Subcultures?
Assistant Curator of Contemporary American Subcultural/Countercultural Fashion and Wearable Sculpture— thanks, I love it.
1500
155

ballerina
COSTUMING CLASSICAL DANCERS
EXHIBIT CLOSED TODAY
THE HOLL
Right! Amazing.
...Well, anyway, Carina had wanted to see the Hollywood fashion exhibit, and we finally had an afternoon free to check it out, but I just saw it was vandalized?? That's awful!

Oh my gosh, I know! It's just terrible. The police were here and everything!

The exhibit's still closed to the public while it's being cleaned up, but I can take you in for a quick peek around if you'd like!

Oh, Emmy, that would be fantastic! Thanks so much for taking time out of your day like this.

Don't worry, it's not an active crime scene anymore,

but there was a lot of glass on the floor earlier and—well, liability, y'know.
Please be careful!
Flash Bulbs

Woah, this is amazing.

And the Gallo pieces were the only ones vandalized?

Eh.
Art vandalism has a long history—the Mona Lisa's behind bulletproof glass for a reason—but I don't think that's what this was.
I'm pretty sure it was an attempted theft.

And the security guard interrupted him?
Hm? No, Manny never actually saw him. He found

the pieces abandoned in one of the main exit hallways.

...Why, though?

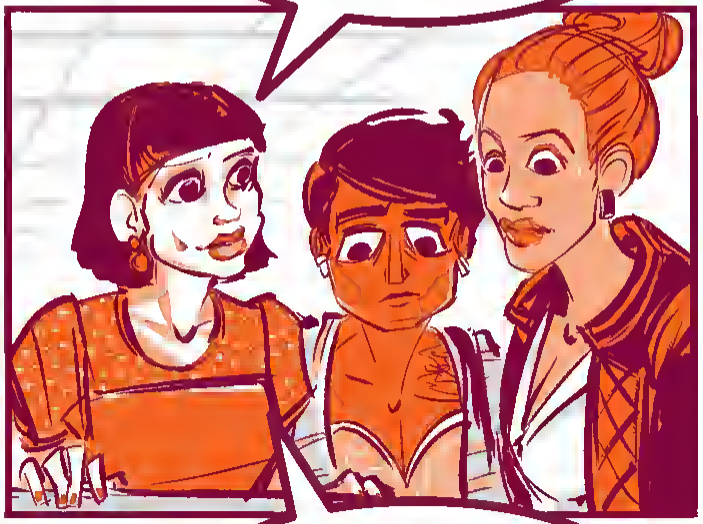
Well, probably because they weren't real Gallos.

Part of our loan agreement with Ms. Kane was that our staff restorers would do repairs and preservation on the pieces for her.

While that process is ongoing they've been housed in our secure archives, and we've had high quality reproductions on display, instead.

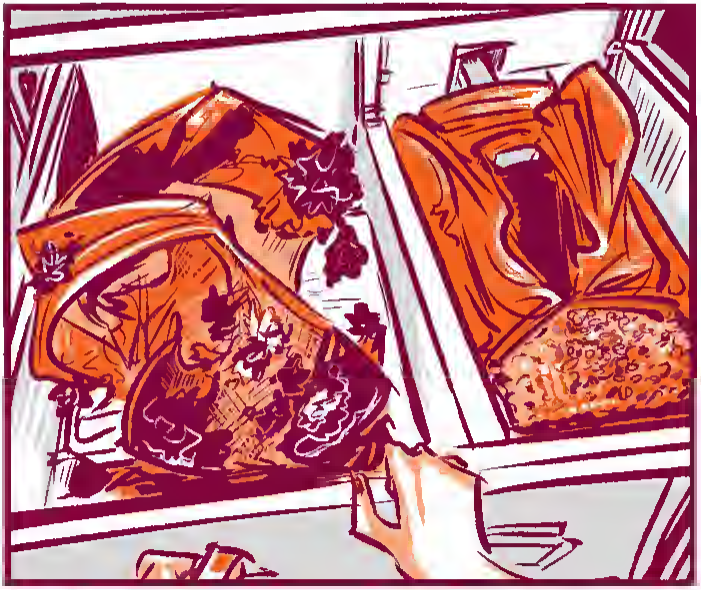
How obvious would it be that they were fake?
Not "fake", *reproductions*.
And they're very close copies, but they're clearly tagged as property of the LAMF Display Prop Department inside the lining at the neck.

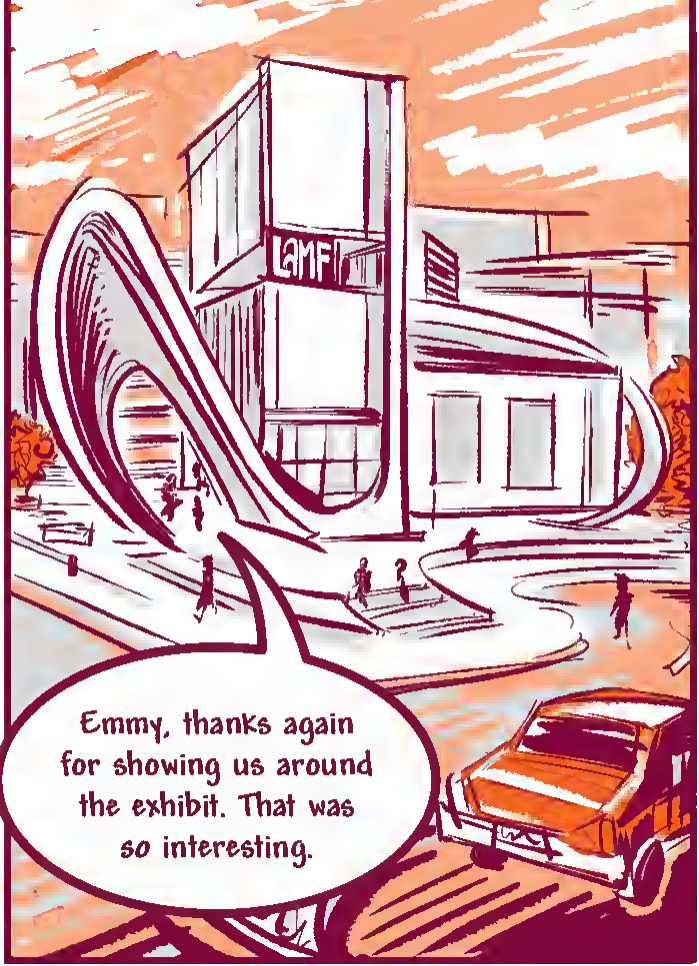
I think whoever it was broke in to steal the originals, took the reproductions without realizing, then threw them down when he got into the main hallway where the light was better and he noticed the labels.



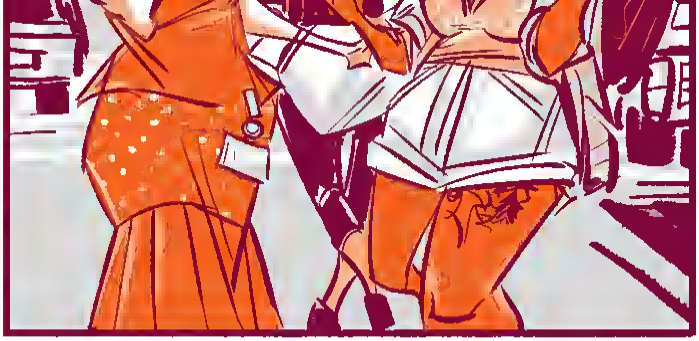
These are the originals.

Don't tell, but I think they're kinda hideous.




LAMF
Emmy, thanks again for showing us around the exhibit. That was so interesting.

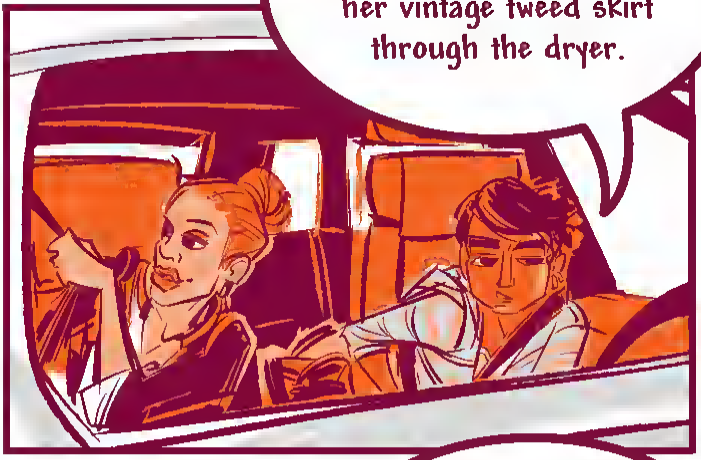
Any time! You should come by for dinner and visit Munchkin. I think she misses you.
Uh, yeah, let's set something up soon!



...Soooo, Emmy seems nice.

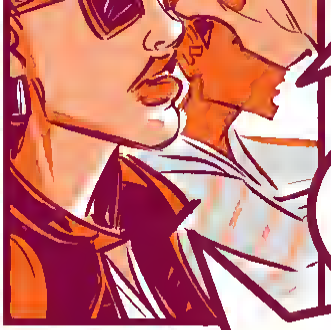
Oh yeah, she's an angel until you run

her vintage tweed skirt through the dryer.



What time does the museum close?

Eight, I think? Why?

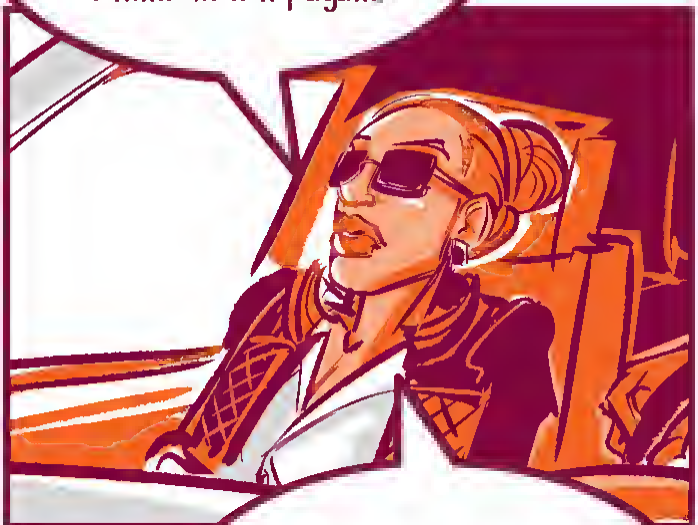


I think the thief's going to come back for those gowns.

He fucked it up once, but they're still the most accessible Gallo designs in the area.

For some reason, this guy's collecting Marco Gallo originals, and *only* Marco Gallo originals

I think he'll try again.



I'll come back tonight as the skeleton, keep an eye on the place.

To Be Continued
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